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## PSB OP 34 Excavation Report

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## Site 34

Site 34 contains 14 structures and four features spread across three irregularly organized clusters situated atop low rises above the Las Huertas/Hondo high terrace. Structures 34-3/5 and 34-7/9 surround patios while Strs. 34-11/14 are roughly arranged in a north-south running line. All other constructions are dispersed across the terrace surface. Site 34 is ca. 41m west of Site 33, both settlements occupying the same raised terrace edge overlooking the east-west trending quebrada. Perennial water sources closest to the site are the Rios Hondo and Las Huertas, approximately 500m southwest and 400m north of Site 34 respectively. The settlement was excavated on June 19-20, 1984, eight person-days of labor being invested in exposing 11.2m<sup>2</sup> of prehistoric deposits. The work was supervised by Patricia Urban and Edward Schortman.

## Structure 34-5

Structure 34-5 defines the north flank of a patio the east and west sides of which are delimited by Strs. 34-3 (5m distant) and 34-4 (4m distant) respectively. Feature 4 is 4.5m east of this structure. The northeast corner of Str. 34-5-1st was uncovered in Subop. 34B, along with roughly two-thirds of the building's eastern foundation and an equivalent amount of its northern foundation (6m<sup>2</sup> excavated). Suboperation 34B was carried down to a maximum depth of 0.25m below ground surface outside construction; the building's interior was not examined. A single construction phase was revealed in the course of these studies.

## Excavation Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Date</u>
34B/1	4 sherds	Terminal Debris (Secondary) and Preconstruction	?
34B/2	68 sherds 1 obsidian piece 2 <u>Pachychilus</u> shells	Terminal Debris (Secondary)	?

## Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 34-5-1st	U.1, 2	-	-	?
3	-	-	S.2	-	-

## Time Span 1

Stratum 1, a red-brown clay containing numerous small pebbles (less than 0.01m in diameter), underlies Str. 34-5-1st construction. This earth level ascends gradually from south to north, rising 0.06m over 0.84m horizontal distance. Stratum 1 was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.14m, though its base was not encountered.

### Time Span 2

Units 1 and 2 appear to be stone foundations marking the northern and eastern limits of a surface-level building. Both are fashioned of unmodified river cobbles set in a single horizontal course with their naturally flatter surfaces oriented out to the north and east. The walls stand 0.12-0.26m high and seem to be a single stone wide, measuring 0.29m across. The rocks are packed round with a brown mud mortar and generally measure 0.12-0.26m in diameter. Structure 34-5-1st is aligned 281 degrees.

### Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a brown root-rich soil incorporating many small (less than 0.01m diameter) pebbles, overlies most Str. 34-5-1st construction. This earth level is 0.1-0.15m thick. No clear sign of tumbled architectural debris was identified in the course of excavating Subop. 34B.

### Structure 34-14

Structure 34-14 is near the middle of a north-south running line of buildings (Strs. 34-11/14) located on Site 34's eastern margin. Structure 34-11 is 8m to the north, Str. 34-13 lies 6m to the southeast, and the group comprised of Strs. 34-3/5 can be found 76m to the northwest. Approximately 5.2m<sup>2</sup> were excavated in the course of revealing a portion of Str. 34-14-1st's southern foundation (Subop. 34C). Digging was pursued to a maximum depth of 0.23m below modern ground surface outside construction revealing a single construction phase. The building's interior was not investigated.

Excavation Lots: No cultural material were uncovered during the excavation of Subop. 34C.

### Time Spans

<u>Time Span</u>	<u>Construction Phase</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Strata</u>	<u>Features</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	-	-	S.1	-	-
2	Str. 34-14-1st	U.1	-	-	?
3	-	-	S.2	-	-

### Time Span 1

Stratum 1 is a red-brown, fine-grained, hard-compacted clay that underlies revealed construction. It rises only 0.02m over 2.1m south to north and was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.14m. Stratum 1's base was not revealed in Subop. 34C.

### Time Span 2

Unit 1 is a rough line composed of angular, unfaced, gray boulders, set in a mud mortar one stone high. This wall rises 0.26m above S.1. The foundation was not well preserved, but seems to be 0.7m wide and oriented approximately 263 degrees. Unit 1 extends 0.04m into underlying S.1.

### Time Span 3

Stratum 2, a brown, fine-textured, root-rich soil that is 0.08-0.1m thick, overlies S.1 and the lower 0.09m of U.1.

### Chronological Summary

Based on architectural form and site planning data, construction at, and use of, Site 34 are tentatively assigned to the Early Postclassic. The relative paucity of artifacts unearthed here suggests a relatively short-term occupation, another feature characteristic of settlements dating to this span. There was no sign of habitation preceding or postdating the Early Postclassic.

### Architectural Summary

Both Strs. 34-5-1st and 34-14-1st appear to have been surface-level edifices delimited by stone foundations that originally supported perishable, probably bajareque, upper walls. These supports, made of both unfaced cobbles (Str. 34-5-1st) and angular boulders (Str. 34-14-1st), range from 0.12-0.26m high and 0.29-0.7m across. Orientations vary considerably, 263 degrees for Str. 34-14-1st and 281 degrees for Str. 34-5-1st.